(b) Number of prosecutions launched by the Central Industrial Relations Machinery against the contractors including Government agencies for violation of relevant provisions of the above Acts in four metropolitan cities *viz.,* Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai during the last three years, is given in enclosed statement (See below). Date regarding violations of the above Acts in the establishments falling under State Sphere is not maintained.

Statement

Number of prosecutions launched against the employers/contractors by the Central Industrial Relations Machinery in four Metropolitan cities during the last three years is given below

Metropolitan Cities	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Delhi	65	173	280
Chennai	39	60	47
Kolkata	70	162	34
Mumbai	149	294	444

Exploitation of job seekers by private placement agencies

2020. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a working group on National Employment Services has highlighted serious complaints of exploitation of job seekers by the private placement agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to check the activities of unscrupulous placement agencies; and

(c) the details of plans drawn up, if any, to regulate the functioning of these agencies mushrooming across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Since a large number of Private Placement agencies are coming up in various parts of the country, it is felt that respective State/UT Governments may frame their own legislation for the purpose of registering and regulating the operations of Private Employment agencies within the guidelines of Ministry of Labour, Government of India.

Closing down on Vanaspati producing units

2021. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Vanaspati producing units have been closed down as a result of import of cheap vanaspati from Nepal;

(b) if so, the steps taken to save the labourers;

(c) the number of workers affected due to closures of various units, State-wise; and

(d) the welfare measures taken for these workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Eradication of child labour

2022. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for the complete eradication of Child Labour in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that some State Governments have already taken a decison to eliminate the employment of child labour and draw up a plan for their education and rehabilitation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Government would be making attempts to eliminate child labour from hazardous occupations